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of view. His principal conclusions may be summed up in the following: "The dwarfish farms, the direct result of the village commune . . . necessarily doom the Russian peasant to chronic starvation. The only way out of the abnormal condition lies through the transition to a capitalistic form of production, through the abolition of the village commune and through the emancipation of the peasant from the thralldom in which he is kept."

In this conclusion Dr. Simkhowitsch does not stand alone, he has only told the outside world what has been repeated over and over again in Russia during the last few years by nearly every writer and economist of note who has looked into the subject carefully and dispassionately.

While Dr. Simkhowitsch's work is not in any way original, it is probably the only up-to-date book in a foreign language which makes an attempt at an exhaustive and systematic treatment of the subject, and for wealth of material and for clearness of presentation, it can not be too strongly recommended to all those who wish to get a comprehensive view of this most vital problem in the largest empire of the civilized world.

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New York City.

The American Revolution. Part i, 1766-1776. By the RT. HON. SIR GEORGE O. TREVELYAN, Bart. 8vo. Pp. xiii, 434. Price, \$3.00. New York : Longmans, Green & Co., 1899.

Sir George Trevelyan is already well known to American readers as the author of the "Life and Letters of Lord Macaulay" and of the "Early History of Charles James Fox." Possibly no living Englishman is better qualified to tell the story of the American Revolution than is he, and certainly no English statesman was more closely connected with that movement than was Fox. "The story of Fox between 1774 and 1782 is inextricably interwoven with the story of the American Revolution," declares the author. "During that part of the great drama, which was enacted within the walls of Parliament, Fox was never off the stage; and when there he played a conspicuous, and, as time went on, confessedly the leading part." It is because "what was done and spoken at Westminster cannot be rightly explained, nor the conduct of British public men fairly judged, without a clear and reasonably detailed account of that which occurred contemporaneously beyond the Atlantic" that the author entitles the second part of his life of Fox "The American Revolution."

The first chapter of the volume before us is devoted to a somewhat brief summary of the previous life of Fox and his character as it appeared to the world in 1774. Following this the author enters into a description of the antagonisms existing between England and America during the decade preceding the open conflict. Without advancing any argument as to when the colonies and the mother country ceased to form one political community, this volume marks a decided progress on the part of English writers by recognizing that before the passage of the Stamp Act the two peoples were socially distinct. British political leaders were ignorant of American conditions. Not only was domestic life different, but the experience through which every Englishman of that day had to pass, in order to secure a place at the cabinet council, thoroughly disqualified him for any sympathetic appreciation of the cause or character of the American leaders. In parliament common honesty was the only absolute bar to political preferment, while in America trustworthiness was the essential condition of success. Such is the indictment which the author draws against the English statesmen of that time.

Of the colonial reluctance to enter an armed conflict the author frequently reminds us. Unquestionably national unity as distinct from colonial independence was promoted by English action. Successful resistance to the efforts put forth by the English crown compelled united action and at first there were grave doubts whether such unity could be secured. Colonial jealousies were nearly as long standing as declarations of right. In agreement with Senator Lodge, who has pictured the movement from an American point of view, Sir George Trevelyan declares that the battle of Bunker's Hill united the discordant colonies. As in the case of other contests the first recognition of the importance of this battle came not from the Continentals, who were chagrined at their defeat, but from their opponents who recognized more clearly the cost of victory. Said Gage shortly after the battle: "The rebels are shown not to be the disorderly rabble too many have supposed. . . . No people were ever governed more absolutely than the American provinces now are; and no reason can be given for their submission but that it is a tyranny which they have erected themselves." Even more striking was the comment of the Tory General Coffin upon the engagement: "Something in the then state of parties was indispensable to fix men somewhere and to show the planters of the South that Northern people were in earnest. That did the business." Much remained to be done in the American army but the impetus had been given. The second step forward was the appointment, by Congress, of George Washington as commander-in-chief of the national forces. Eulogies of that great leader are common,

but it is doubtful if any American could have written a more appropriate word than the simple tribute paid by this English writer.

The volume closes with the evacuation of Boston, the outcome of a campaign which the author thus characterizes: "Never had England reaped so little glory or advantage from so great an expenditure of money and after so much preliminary swagger on the part, not of the people who were to pay or the soldiers who were to fight, but of the statesmen who had already begun to blunder." Colonel Barré declared that this unsuccessful effort to retain ground in one small corner of the empire had cost half as much again as the operations of the year 1704, in which English armies were conquering all Europe from Blenheim to Gibraltar.

It may seem ungracious to criticise the method which the author has pursued, yet to an American reader the emphasis of the volume seems misplaced. The author has not told us of Fox, nor even of the movement in English history which culminated in the repressive measures of the North ministry. He has given a discussion of American politics and a description of American military history. This indeed is the task which the author assigned himself and it is well done. On this side of the Atlantic a more detailed exposition of the English policy and a continuation of the personal history of Fox would have been welcome.

C. H. LINCOLN.

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